



PARTNERSHIP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

A Local Resource for Schools

The Partnership

The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) with the support of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts is offering an opportunity for local schools to improve chemical management practices. Serious chemical management issues have been identified by OTA and the Department of Environmental Protection in many Massachusetts schools. These problems, such as large chemical stockpiles, highly hazardous materials, and unsafe chemical use, storage, and disposal practices have been consistently observed. The School Mentoring Partnership Program is designed to help schools avoid these problems by improving access to local expertise on a range of chemical management topics as well as making available to schools training for better chemical procurement, handling, and disposal. The expertise and actual time a mentor volunteers to a school each month may only be a few hours, however positive results can be achieved with small, sustained support.

Businesses are assisting the local schools in their area by:

- Using Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) staff to mentor schools on safe chemical management practices.
- Aiding schools in developing a comprehensive chemical management system including streamlined chemical purchasing.
- Assisting schools in adopting green laboratory teaching methods.

Schools are benefiting through:

- Improved safety and compliance throughout the school facility.
- Reductions in chemical purchases, hazardous waste, and compliance costs.
- Staff trainings in green chemistry.

OTA is providing:

- Training for business staff on common chemical management problems in schools and best management practices for chemical management in schools including toxics use reduction and pollution prevention opportunities.
- Generic written chemical management system guidance that mentors can use to aid schools. The key element in this is an improved chemical purchasing policy.
- Support from OTA staff to both business EHS officials and school officials throughout the process.

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